

(The bill will be printed in a future edition of the RECORD.)

Mrs. MURRAY. I move to reconsider the vote.

Ms. COLLINS. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BROWNBAC. I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BROWNBAC. I ask unanimous consent the following Senators be recognized to speak: myself, for 10 minutes; Senator LINCOLN, for 10 minutes; Senator DODD, for 15 minutes; and Senator STABENOW, for 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SAFE PORT ACT

Mr. BROWNBAC. Mr. President, I congratulate my colleague from Maine on an excellent accomplishment, a huge vote on an important piece of legislation. It is critical. A number of colleagues, the Senator from Wyoming and others on both sides of the aisle, did so much good work on this legislation.

DARFUR

Mr. BROWNBAC. Mr. President, I will not take my colleagues' time for long, but I draw attention to a situation that has further developed—or devolved and deteriorated—and that is the situation in Darfur. It is a situation this Senate has spoken to often. We have spoken on resolutions, on amendments; we have added funds.

What we have feared is now upon us. We are now seeing in the IDP camps, the individuals that are displaced internally, diseases such as asthma, malaria, cholera and dysentery. We have had 12 humanitarian workers killed in the last 2 months. That is driving a number of the humanitarian groups out of the region. The NGO, the non-government organizations, currently now serve only 60 percent of the people they were serving. The Government of Sudan has reportedly resumed aerial bombings taking place in the northern and southern parts of Darfur.

The situation is growing worse. We don't know how many people have died already, but it is set to escalate rapidly. NGOs are fleeing because people are getting killed. The people are concentrated in the camps. They are now not getting food and clean water.

Now we have cholera, more misery, malaria and the numbers of people getting killed escalating dramatically. It

is going to escalate further and more dramatically if we do not act.

We have the government in Khartoum saying they want the African Union troops out.

We do not have a big enough force there now. They are scheduled to leave the end of September. We have a United Nations group that is forming to go in, and the government in Khartoum, Sudan, is saying, We are not going to let them in.

We have African Union troops preparing to leave. We have the U.N. troops not yet prepared to come in or being allowed in. And we have chaos. There are a lot of people dying in this region. It is escalating. It is time we step up and push again.

This Senate has been excellent on this issue. The administration has been very good. I cite particularly Assistant Secretary Zoellick who spent a lot of time working on this issue, trying to bring people together, getting a peace agreement signed a couple of months ago. It was an important peace agreement.

The problem that has taken place now, after the peace agreement was signed, the African Union troops were starting to organize to pull out, the government of President al-Bashir in the Sudan decided: This is our time to take over because the rest of the world is looking at Lebanon, they are dealing with Hezbollah, the United States is focused on its election cycle. This is the time for us to move.

This is a very difficult, dire situation for people on the ground. I met with a number of the aid organizations today. Their people are getting killed, so they are pulling back, as I cited.

When this situation first started developing about 3 years ago, the very situation we are most concerned about is a lot of people getting into the displaced camps, not having access to clean water, disease spreading in the camps, spreading because of the concentration of individuals and the lack of sanitation and clean water, and we really get a mess. That is now where we are.

Mrs. BOXER. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. BROWNBAC. Yes.

Mrs. BOXER. I thank Senator BROWNBAC for raising this issue. We are in a do-or-die moment. We have been there before. I am reading that certain experts are saying in 2 weeks there could be another Rwanda.

I am very glad the Senator is speaking out. I was very glad this Senate did act, as we know, on a measure last week, actually voting to send \$20 million to the African nations to carry on, as my friend points out. If they do not do it, there is a void. What will fill the void will be disease, rapes, killings and, I hate to say it, continued genocide.

I am glad the Senator raised this. The hours are running short. We did vote. It is important we use our bully pulpit in whatever way we can. I personally will be going to the United Nations on Monday literally to knock on

doors. I am setting up some appointments. We have to do everything we can to prevent this worsening situation from getting to the point where it is unsalvageable.

I thank the Senator for his efforts.

Mr. BROWNBAC. I thank my colleague for her interest. I wish her Godspeed in New York with the U.N.

My colleague in Connecticut will address this same topic. It is very important to speak. We need to pass the Darfur Accountability Act. It has passed here and in the House. We need to resolve the issues.

It is important that the President, in his meetings at the U.N. for General Assembly meetings, raise this issue. It is important to press the Sudanese Government to stop the aerial bombings—they can do that first and foremost—and that the African Union forces stay until a U.N. force is put in place, we pressure the Sudanese Government to accept a U.N. force, or, if not, put in targeted sanctions toward Sudanese officials preventing traveling, dealing with their own personal accounts.

There are a series of recommendations of a number of Senators addressed in a letter to the President. It is a bipartisan effort. It is a genocide already. It is one that is set to become a far worse situation.

We really need to act.

I yield to the floor to the set of speakers listed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, I join my colleague from California in thanking Senator BROWNBAC for bringing this issue forward. He has been a tremendous supporter of taking action. He brings to light, tonight, the fact we have to act and we have to act expeditiously.

As the situation deteriorates, unfortunately, it moves closer toward a situation that we can do nothing about. I appreciate all of the Senator's efforts in what he is doing for the people of Darfur.

RURAL AMERICA MONTH

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, I was so pleased this week as the daughter of a seventh generation Arkansas farm family from rural eastern Arkansas, and it is with a tremendous amount of pride I come to the Senate today to applaud the passage of Senate Resolution 561 which designates September of 2006 as Rural America Month. I was pleased to introduce this resolution last week with Senator REID, Senator FRIST, and many of my colleagues.

Rural America means a tremendous amount to this Nation. It is the place where our values oftentimes begin and grow. We send people from rural America not just to the big cities of America, but all across the globe to exhibit those American values that grow and begin in rural America.

My values and my world view are directly tied to how I was raised in a